

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 306142  
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 306142

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL, ELAB, EG, IS

SUBJECT: VISIT OF EGYPTIAN MANPOWER MINISTER, SAAD AHMAD

REF: STATE 296137

1. SUMMARY: VISIT OF EGYPTIAN MINISTER OF MANPOWER  
SAAD AHMAD WAS RESOUNDING SUCCESS. HE WAS RECEIVED AT  
HIGHEST LEVELS IN DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND LABOR. MORE  
TO HIS LIKING WAS HIS RECOGNITION BY AFL-CIO PRESIDENT  
GEORGE MEANY AS THE LEADER OF A GENUINE LABOR MOVEMENT.  
END OF SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 306142

2. EGYPTIAN MINISTER OF MANPOWER SAAD AHMAD CONCLUDED  
HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO U.S. DEC. 12, WITH HIS  
DEPARTURE FROM LOS ANGELES WHERE HE ATTENDED THE 12TH  
BIENNIAL CONVENTION OF THE AFL-CIO. BEFORE THE CONVENTION,  
AHMAD SPENT TWO DAYS IN WASHINGTON WHERE HE CONFERRED  
WITH HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS OF DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND  
LABOR. DURING AFL-CIO CONVENTION, HE HAD MEETINGS WITH

VARIOUS AMERICAN LABOR LEADERS INCLUDING GEORGE MEANY, WHO INTRODUCED HIM TO THE CONVENTIONEERS TOGETHER WITH HISTADRUT SECRETARY GENERAL YERUCHAM MESHEL. THE MINISTER RECEIVED PROMISES OF CONSIDERATION OF HIS REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND THE AFL-CIO IN VOCATIONAL TRAINING, LABOR MINISTRY TRAINING AND TRADE UNION EDUCATION. FACT THAT MINISTER HAD ACCOMPANIED SADAT ON VISIT TO JERUSALEM HELPED ENSURE SUCCESS OF AHMAD'S VISIT HERE.

3. WASHINGTON PORTION OF VISIT:

(A) IN MEETINGS WITH LABOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS MINISTER AHMAD STATED THAT AS A RESULT OF PRESIDENT SADAT'S PEACE INITIATIVES, EGYPT'S PRIORITIES WERE EXPECTED TO TAKE A NEW DIRECTION CALCULATED TO RAISE THE LIVING STANDARDS OF THE EGYPTIAN PEOPLE. HE REQUESTED LABOR DEPARTMENT ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING VOCATIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTIONS; CENTERS TO UPGRADE THE SKILLS OF SKILLED AND SEMI-SKILLED WORKERS; IN CONDUCTING SEMINARS IN EGYPT BY U.S. LABOR ADVISORS AND EXPERTS; AND LONG-TERM ACADEMIC TRAINING IN LABOR RELATED FIELDS FOR GOE EMPLOYEES AND ADMINISTRATORS. DOL REPRESENTATIVES TOLD THE MINISTER THAT THE LABOR DEPARTMENT WOULD REVIEW, EVALUATE AND DETERMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF MEETING HIS REQUESTS.

(B) MINISTER WAS BRIEFED ON THE FUNCTIONS OF THE BUREAU  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 306142

OF LABOR STATISTICS.

(C) DURING COURTESY CALL ON SECRETARY OF LABOR MARSHALL, AHMAD URGED THE U.S. TO RETURN TO THE ILO BECAUSE IT DEPENDS ON U.S. MORAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT; U.S. MEMBERSHIP IS ESSENTIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF ANY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION; AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES NEED U.S. GUIDANCE. HE HELD THAT PROBLEMS WHICH PROMPTED U.S. WITHDRAWAL COULD BE SOLVED IN OTHER WAYS THAN WITHDRAWING.

(D) MINISTER AHMAD MADE COURTESY CALLS ON SENATOR RICHARD STONE (D-FLA.), AND REP. PAUL FINDLEY (R-ILL.).

(E) MINISTER MADE A COURTESY CALL ON ACTING SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER. NEA DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY MICHAEL STERNER HOSTED A LUNCH IN THE MINISTER'S HONOR. EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR GHORBAL ALSO HOSTED A LUNCHEON IN THE MINISTER'S HONOR WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY, AMONG OTHERS, DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT BEN H. READ, IO ASSISTANT SECRETARY CHARLES W. MAYNES AND DALE GOOD OF S/IL.

4. AFL-CIO CONVENTION:

(A) BEFORE THE CONVENTION, AHMAD PAID BRIEF COURTESY CALL ON GEORGE MEANY. ON DEC. 9 AHMAD WAS INTRODUCED TOGETHER WITH YERUCHAM MESHEL, SECRETARY GENERAL OF

HISTADRUT, BY MEANY TO THE ASSEMBLED DELEGATES. GUESTS RECEIVED STANDING OVATION AND WERE INVITED TO ADDRESS THE ASSEMBLY (TEXTS OF SPEECHES BEING SENT BY AIRGRAM). WHILE MESHEL'S REMARKS WERE RECEIVED BY THE DELEGATES WITH VIGOROUS APPROVAL, AHMAD'S SHORT SPEECH WAS GIVEN ROUSING STANDING OVATION.

(B) ON DEC. 11, AFL-CIO SECRETARY-TREASURER LANE KIRKLAND HOSTED A BRUNCH FOR AHMAD. AMONG OTHER PARTICIPANTS WERE IRVING BROWN, AFL-CIO EUROPEAN REPRESENTATIVE, AND PATRICK O'FARRELL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AFRO-AMERICAN LABOR CENTER. KIRKLAND REQUESTED THE MINISTER TO SEND O'FARRELL A LIST OF THE KINDS OF ASSISTANCE HE BELIEVED THE AFL-CIO COULD FURNISH. O'FARRELL WILL REVIEW REQUEST FOR PRESENTATION TO AFL-CIO. KIRKLAND TOLD AHMAD CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 306142

THAT THE AFL-CIO WILL SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO EGYPT, PROBABLY O'FARRELL, TO TAKE A FIRST HAND LOOK AT THE SITUATION AND REVIEW THE EGYPTIAN TRADE UNIONS' NEEDS. MEANY JOINED THE BRUNCH GROUP AND REPORTEDLY HAD A WARM AND SEARCHING DISCUSSION WITH AHMAD. THE MINISTER EVIDENTLY PROVED HIS BONA FIDES AS A TRADE UNIONIST TO MEANY WHO INTRODUCED HIM TO THE GUESTS AT THE TRADITIONAL BANQUET FOR FOREIGN VISITORS TO THE CONVENTION AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE EGYPTIAN CONFEDERATION OF LABOR.

(C) MINISTER MET WITH SOME AFRICAN AND ARAB TRADE UNIONISTS DURING CONVENTION, AND WITH OTTO KERSTEN, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ICFTU AND TOR HALVORSEN, PRESIDENT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF NORWEGIAN LABOR.

(D) AHMAD ALSO HAD LONG MEETING WITH THE HISTADRUT'S SECRETARY GENERAL, YERUCHAM MESHEL, ISRAELI LABOR COUNSELOR BENJAMIN SELLA AND HISTADRUT'S AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE YAACOV COHEN. AFTER THE MEETING, THE MINISTER TOLD HIS ESCORT-INTERPRETER, WHO WAS NOT PRESENT AT THE MEETING AS COHEN SPEAKS FLUENT ARABIC, THAT MESHEL GAVE HIM A COPY OF LETTER HE HAD SENT HIM AFTER PRESIDENT SADAT'S VISIT TO JERUSALEM, INVITING AHMAD AND OTHER EGYPTIAN TRADE UNIONISTS TO VISIT ISRAEL TO WORK OUT A PROGRAM OF COOPERATION. AHMAD THANKED THE ISRAELIS FOR INVITATION; HOWEVER, HE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THINGS WERE HAPPENING TOO RAPIDLY AND THAT HE COULD NOT ACCEPT THE INVITATION UNTIL SOMETHING CONCRETE RESULTED FROM THE SADAT PEACE INITIATIVE. HE CERTAINLY COULD NOT, AS A MINISTER OF THE GOVERNMENT, BE AHEAD OF HIS OWN PRESIDENT. HE WAS RECEPTIVE TO THE INVITATION; BUT MADE NO PROMISES. AHMAD GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE ISRAELIS WERE PUSHING A BIT HARD.

4. THE VISIT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN AN OUTSTANDING SUCCESS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 306142

INDEED, THE MINISTER RECEIVED MORE ATTENTION AT CONVENTION  
THAN ALMOST ANY OTHER FOREIGN VISITOR. PRIOR TO HIS  
DEPARTURE FOR NEW YORK, HE TOLD NEA LABOR ADVISOR THAT  
HE WAS EXTREMELY PLEASED AT HIS RECEPTION AND FELT TRIP  
HAD BEEN VERY WORTHWHILE. VANCE

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